Message Text

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ORIGIN OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 OES-03 EB-07 COME-00 DLOS-03

INT-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12 AGR-05

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R 102251Z APR 75 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, JA

SUBJECT: STATUS OF JAPANESE CRAB FISHERY IN EASTERN BERING SEA

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR CLINGAN, LOS DEL

1. ONE OF MOST DIFFICULT ISSUES ENCOUNTERED DURING NEGOTIATION OF US/JAPAN FISHERIES AGREEMENTS IN DECEMBER 1974 WAS MATTER RELATING TO ENFORCEMENT OF JAPANESE CRAB FISHERY. WITH GOOD REASON, US SUSPECTED JAPANESE FLEET OPERATORS WERE FAR EXCEEDING CATCH QUOTAS AGREED TO BY JAPAN. TO RESOLVE PROBLEM, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE WHEREIN US OBSERVERS WERE GIVEN SPECIFIC POWERS TO CLOSELY OBSERVE CONDUCT OF CRAB FISHERY AND TO CLOSELY MONITOR LANDINGS. THESE ARRANGEMENTS WERE FORMALIZED CONFIDENTIAL

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THROUGH TWO CLASSIFIED LETTERS SIGNED-BY AKIRA MATSUURA,

DIRECTOR OF OCEANIC FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, FISHERIES AGENCY, ADDRESSED TO T.A. CLINGAN, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY, OES/OFA, DATED DECEMBER 13, 1974. COPIES OF THESE LETTERS SHOULD BE ON FILE IN EMBASSY.

2. PARAGRAPH F OF LETTER CLASSIFIED FOR OFFICIAL USE READS BEGIN QUOTE INFORMATION CAN BE SUPPLIED TO JAPANESE

GOVERNMENT BY US OFFICIALS REGARDING PROGRESS OF JAPANESE FLEET AS OBSERVED BY US OBSERVERS, WHEN QUOTA IS BEING APPROACHED. JAPANESE OFFICIALS WILL TAKE DUE ACCOUNT OF THIS INFORMATION AT TIME OF MAKING DECISION CONCERNING WHEN QUOTA HAS BEEN REACHED END QUOTE.

- 3. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN INFORMED, BY NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE, NOAA, COMMERCE, THAT OBSERVATIONS MADE BY NMFS OBSERVERS SERVING ABOARD TWO JAPANESE CRAB MOTHERSHIPS FISHING IN AGREEMENT AREA INDICATE THAT FLEETS ARE EXPECTED TO REACH QUOTA OF 2,500 METRIC TONS OF TANNER CRAB IN SOUTHERN AREA ABOUT APRIL 14 OR 15 JAPANESE TIME. AS OF APRIL 8, THEIR COMBINED CATCH TOTALED 2,132 M.T. POST IS REQUESTED TO RELAY THIS INFORMATION PER PARA F OF LETTER.
- 4. PARAGRAPH 2 (1) OF LETTER CLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL READS BEGIN QUOTE CAPTAINS OF INDEPENDENT VESSELS CONDUCTING TANNER CRAB FISHERIES WILL REPORT BY FOLLOWING DAY DAILY POSITIONS OF THEIR VESSELS AND AMOUNT OF THEIR DAILY CATCH TO JAPANESE ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS ABOARD MOTHERSHIPS OPERATING IN EASTERN BERING SEA. ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS WILL INFORM US OBSERVERS DAILY OF SUCH DATA END QUOTE.
- 5. THIS INFORMATION IS NOT PRESENTLY BEING MADE AVAILABLE TO US OBSERVERS. WE BELIEVE CATCH INFORMATION FROM THESE VESSELS IS NOT PRESENTLY AVAILABLE SIMPLY BECAUSE VESSELS HAVE NOT YET BEGUN TO FISH AND WILL NOT DO SO UNTIL AGREEMENT ON CATCH QUOTAS REACHED BETWEEN JAPAN AND USSR AT CRAB NEGOTIATIONS PRESENTLY UNDERWAY IN MOSCOW. POST IS REQUESTED TO CONFIRM THIS INTERPRETATION OF SITUATION CONFIDENTIAL

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AND DETERMINE WHEN FISHERY EXPECTED TO COMMENCE.

5. PLEASE CONVEY TO GOJ US SATISFACTION OVER PROGRESS SO FAR OF CRAB OBSERVER SCHEME. NMFS OBSERVERS REPORT FULL COOPERATION BEING EXTENDED BY JAPANESE CRAB OPERATORS AMID CORDIAL RELATIONS. KISSINGER

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